

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

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EO. 11652: N/A

TAGSBEXP, USIRJC, US, IR

SUBJECT:INCREASED PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORK
OF THE US-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION

FOR EUGENE K. LAWSON FROM BRAMANTE

1. THERE FOLLOWS FOR YOUR INFORMATION TEXT OF LETTER OF
NOV. 19 FROM UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE BAKER TO AMBASS-
ADOR HELMS ON SUBJECT PROJECT:

,THE PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER IS TO SOLICIT YOUR THOUGHTS
AND HOPEFULLY YOUR CONCURRENCE ON AN IDEA GENERATED
JOINTLY BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND COMMERCE TO
INCREASE GREATER PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORK OF
THE US-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION. THE REASON FOR OUR INTEREST
IN THIS MATTER IS TWO-FOLD: (1) PRESIDENT FORD HAS
APPROVED A NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL UNDER SECRETARIES'
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COMMITTEE STUDY RECOMMENDING MORE UTILIZATION OF THE

PRIVATE SECTOR IN JOINT COMMISSIONS; AND (2)
COMMERCE CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT LESS GOVERNMENT AND
MORE PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT ENHANCES OUR FREE ENTER-
PRISE SYSTEM.

"THE PROPOSAL I REFER TO WOULD INVOLVE HAVING INDUSTRY

ASSOCIATIONS SERVE AS A LINK BETWEEN THE JOINT COM-
MISSION AND US FIRMS. COMMERCE WOULD PLAN TO WORK WITH
VARIOUS ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTING PRIVATE AREAS OF IRAN-
IAN INTEREST IN ORDER TO ORGANIZE TECHNICAL TEAMS WHICH
WOULD VISIT IRAN TO SURVEY, ANALYZE, AND REFINE INFORMA-
TION ON SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN PARTICULAR IN-
DUSTRIAL SECTIONS. THESE TEAMS WOULD RETURN TO THE US
AND TRANSFORM THIS DATA INTO A FORM USEABLE BY INDIVIDUAL
US FIRMS IN PREPARING PROPOSALS OR BIDS. THE TRADE
ASSOCIATION WOULD THEN DISSEMINATE THE INFORMATION TO ITS
MEMBERSHIP. COMMERCE AND OTHER US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
WOULD ALSO GIVE THE DATA THE WIDEST POSSIBLE DISTRIBUTION
VIA OUR TRADITIONAL CHANNELS.

"AS AN INITIAL STEP, I PLAN TO HAVE MY STAFF DETERMINE
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INTERESTS AND CAPABILITIES FOR

PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROPOSED PROGRAM. AS SOON AS WE
HAVE COMPLETED THIS SURVEY, WE WILL IDENTIFY BY CABLE TO
YOU THOSE ASSOCIATIONS WHICH IN OUR JUDGEMENT ARE WILLING
AND ABLE TO MOVE AHEAD ON THIS PROGRAM. AFTER THAT, WE
WOULD RELY HEAVILY UPON EMBASSY ADVICE AS TO WHICH
ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL TEAM SHOULD MAKE THE FIRST VISIT
AND WHOM THEY SHOULD SEE IN IRAN. THE FIRST VISIT WILL
SERVE AS A PILOT PROGRAM TO TEST THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
CONCEPT.

,THE TECHNICAL TEAM PLAN, WHICH TO MY KNOWLEDGE HAS
NEVER BEEN TRIED IN QUITE THIS MANNER, HAS BEEN DISCUSSED
WITH ROGER BREWIN. THIS PROPOSED PROGRAM WILL NOT CON-
FLICT WITH THE REGULAR SCHEDULE OF COMMERCE PROMOTIONAL
EVENTS. WE WANT TO TEST THE IDEA TO DETERMINE IF IT WILL
PROVE A USEFUL SUPPLEMENT TO THE EXPORT PROMOTION
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TECHNIQUES ALREADY IN USE AND WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO
RECEIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION. IN ORDER TO BE COST EFFECTIVE,
THIS PROGRAM SHOULD OPERATE WITH MINIMAL (UNDERScoreD)
EMBASSY ASSISTANCE.

"TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE CHANGE OF THE IRANIAN
CHAIRMANSHIP, PERHAPS WE CAN USE THIS TEAM PROGRAM CON-

CEPT TO PROVIDE THE MOMENTUM WE NEED IN ORDER TO CONTINUE
THE PROGRESS OF THE ECONOMY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.

"I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR RESPONSE AND CONTINUED COOPERATION.
END QUOTE.

2. AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS SENT

TO YOU CARE OF BREWIN BY REGISTERED POUCH ON NOV. 19
(REGISTRY NO. 1075982), SCHEDULED ARRIVE TEHRAN SEPT. 23.
INGERSOLL

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